

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA



COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND
MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER, MARITIME AND GLOBAL
COUNTERTERRORISM

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING AND
TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 28, 2010

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FINANCE AND TAX

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND TRADE

kirkpatrick.house.gov

TOLL FREE: 1-888-737-1266

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20202-0008

Dear Secretary Duncan,

I write today in support of the state of Arizona's second round application for funding through the Department of Education's Race to the Top Program.

As the state works to build a 21st century economy, it is vital that all Arizona students are prepared for success in postsecondary education and equipped with the skills that are required for a rapidly changing workplace. Arizona has been a national leader in implementing entrepreneurial and innovative education reforms that incorporate parents, communities, and public and private entities in the project of offering all children a quality education.

For years, Arizona teachers, administrators, and policy makers have met the challenge of providing quality education in an economically, culturally, and geographically diverse state. With the implementation of the Arizona Academic Standards, the Department of Education laid the groundwork for a standards-based system that is focused on delivering results. In the past year, the state legislature has passed key provisions to end social promotion, track student achievement, and bolster teacher and principal performance. With the structure of a coordinated, state-wide effort to boost student preparedness across the board already in place, Arizona is an ideal recipient of Race to the Top funding.

Arizona has demonstrated its commitment to preparing all students for success. I am confident that Race to the Top funding will significantly help Arizona deliver the system-wide improvements required for future academic excellence and economic prosperity. For these reasons I ask that you grant the state of Arizona's application for Race to the Top funding all due consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress